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Book-Craft.

A KINDLY old gentleman I used to meet frequently on the avenue some years ago always impressed me with his exquisite taste in matters of art, and erudite knowledge of literature without that bookishness which sometimes becomes a bore to listeners. A fine-looking man, short of stature, handsome florid face set with white side-whiskers and lit up by kindly twinkling eyes. He was Henry T. Cox, of Brooklyn, whose love for Barbizon and Dutch paintings showed the bent of his mind. As a bibliophile and connoisseur he had few equals, and his library, which will be sold next week from the 17th to the 20th, at the Bang's & Co. rooms, contains a variety of books of surpassing interest. Many are handsomely bound, and there are excellent examples of the bindings by Tout, Zaehnsdorf, Bedford, Alfred and William Matthews, Riviere, Petit, Ruban, Chambolle-Duru.

Noticeable in the collection is a copy of Walton and Cotton's "Complete Angler," Pickering's edition of 1836, extended to 7 vols. by the insertion of 1,762 illustrations, of which 479 are portraits, 920 are views, 141 are fish-subjects, 49 are pen-and-ink drawings, and 173 are water-color drawings, the list comprising almost everything proper and beautiful to illustrate and adorn this famous old book. The volumes are carefully and elegantly bound by Stikeman & Co., in green crushed levant morocco, lined with crimson levant morocco, delicately and appropriately tooled. Another noteworthy item is Mrs. Bray's "Life and Times of Thomas Stothard," London, 1851, extended from 8vo to 3 vols. folio, with each page of text inlaid, and the whole containing 560 inserted plates. Other instances in this department, selected at random, are Spence's "Anecdotes of Books and Men," 3 vols. folio; Rogers' "Table Talk;" Byron's "Childe Harold," Murray's edition of 1841, with india proofs, and bound by Matthews; Anstey's "New Bath Guide," with 150 extra plates; Sterne's "Sentimental Journey," with Leloir illustrations and an extra pen-and-ink sketch added; and many others. Of Poetry and the Drama the library is rich, in the best editions, of Ireland's "History of the New York Stage," complete set of the Dunlad Society publications, Molière's "Works," Shirley's "Works" (Gifford's edition); Ben Jonson's "Works," 9 vols., London, 1875; Daly's "Peg Woffington," New York, 1888, 4to; the Baskerville edition of Congreve, 3 vols., Birmingham, 1761; Colley Cibber's "Apology for his Life," Payne Collier's copy, with numerous marginal notes, London, 1822; Dryden's "Collected Writings," 19 vols.; Beaumont and Fletcher's "Plays," edited by Dr. Dyce; the best editions of George Herbert, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Burns, and, greatest of all, the original editions of Dickens and Thackeray.

* * *

Mr. R. H. Russell announces the publication of "English Portraits," a series of drawings on stone by Will Rothenstein. This book will be particularly welcome to those interested in the personalities of some of the most prominent men of the day. The likeness in every case is excellent.

Portraits of the following well-known persons, each preceded by a short biographical note, are included in the volume:

Mr. Thomas Hardy, Mr. William Archer, Mr. Arthur Wing Pinero, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. George Gissing, Sir F. Seymour Hayden, F.R.C.S., John Sargent, R.A., Mr. William Ernest Henley, Mr. Sidney Colvin, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Mr. Charles Ricketts, Mr. Grant Allen, Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Henry James, and others.

* * *

There will also soon appear a portfolio containing eight portraits of Historic Americans, engraved in wood by Gustav Kruell. The portfolio will contain two portraits of Lincoln, the one taken in Chicago in 1859, the other representing him in 1863. Also portraits of General Sherman, General Grant, William Lloyd Garrison, James Russell Lowell, and Daniel Webster.

* * *

Libbie & Co. sold recently in Boston, among other lots, the following:

Billing's "Psalm Singer's Amusement," Boston, 1718, with curious emblematic engraved title and 104 pages of music engraved by J. Norman, $77.50.

Brownson's "New Collection of Sacred Harmony," Simsbury, Conn., 1797, with title page, letter-press, and forty-eight pages of music engraved on copper by Z. Howe, $26.

"Chorister's Companion," New Haven, 1782, title page engraved by Amos Doolittle, and 100 pages of engraved music, $23.

Walter's "Grounds and Rules of Musick Explained," Boston (1760–63?), with nineteen pages of music engraved by Thomas Johnston, $51. Brinley's, a finer copy, fetched but $9 in 1881. The first edition appeared in 1721, the second in 1746; this undated edition was the third.

"New Hampshire Register," Portsmouth, N. H., 1772, uncut, $33.

Original subscription lists of New London, Conn., to raise men to recruit the Continental Army in 1781, thirty-nine documents, $41.

"New England Primer Enlarged," Boston, E. Draper, for James White, 1788, $80. Unknown to Ford, and a very great rarity.

"New England Primer Improved," Portsmouth (1790?), printed and sold by John Melcher, $31.

Trumbull's "McFingal," Hartford, 1782, Thomas Jefferson's copy, $14.

Allen's "Natural and Political History of Vermont," London, 1798, $19.

Bradley's "Appeal to Candid and Impartial World," Hartford, 1780, uncut, $34.

Burk's "History of Virginia," Petersburg, 1804–16, four volumes, $80.

A complete set of the "Massachusetts Magazine, or Monthly Museum of Knowledge and Rational Entertainment," Boston, Thomas & Andrews, 1789–96, eight volumes, brought $480. This set, which belonged once to Andrews, one of the publishers, is undoubtedly the best ever offered for sale, and, indeed, seems to be the only perfect one known. Brinley's, which fetched only $56, lacked seven plates. The Manson copy had all the plates engraved on copper by Hill, including portraits of Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, and Necker; views of Faneuil Hall, a lighthouse in Boston Harbor, Castle William, Federal edifice, New York; seat of John Hancock, bridge over Charles River, the Bastile, the arch erected in honor of Washington, the court house, Salem; Harvard College, Niagara, Mystic River, northeast prospect from Boston Common; Upper Ferry, Schuylkill; Green Hill, near Philadelphia; Pennsylvania Hospital, Eden Vale, Waltham, Dartmouth College, Newburg

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Bridge; Hollis Street meeting-house, Boston; Boston, from Breed's Hill. "Letter from some of the Representatives in the late General Assembly of the Colony of New York to His Excellency Governor C——n, principally in answer to his message of the 13th October last, and his Dissolution speech," a pamphlet of thirty pages, which was "printed in the year 1747" in New York, probably by James Parker. The sum of $161 was given for this rare New York imprint, the Manson copy of which, uncut and in the original wrappers, is very likely unique.

* * *

At recent book sales at Bangs & Co.'s the following prices were realized:

"Journal of the Proceedings of Congress, Held May 10 to Aug. 1, 1775," Philadelphia, 1775, $18.25.

"New Testament," New York, 1792, with engravings by Doolittle, $12.25.

Cicero's "Cato Major," Philadelphia, Franklin's press, 1744, a fair copy, $22.50.

Dell's "Trial of Spirits," Philadelphia, Franklin & Hall, 1760, $13.50.

Matthews's "Modern Bookbindings Practically Considered," New York, Grolier Club, 1889, $17.50.

Cotton Mather's "Ornaments for the Daughters of Zion," Cambridge, 1692, $26.50.

New York Dispatch, 1845–86, forty volumes, $64.

Lowell's "Year's Life," Cambridge, 1841, no title page, "the first copy printed," each signature containing penciled entry of the date when "passed" by the printer, $10.50.

Lowell's "Poems," Boston, 1849, two volumes, presentation copy, with manuscript sonnet at end of Vol. I. in Lowell's handwriting, $10.50.

Whittier's "Leaves from Margaret Smith's Journal," Boston, 1849, folded sheets, "the first copy printed," $5.25.

Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," London, 1866, cloth, $28. "Through the Looking Glass," London, 1872, $8.

Dickens's "Village Coquettes," London, 1836, sheets folded, $16.

Dickens's "Pickwick Papers," London, 1836–7, in the original parts, with all the wrappers and advertisements, $35.

Hardy's "Desperate Remedies," London, 1871, three volumes, first edition, $28.50.

Ruskin's "Nature of Gothic," Kelmscott Press, 1892, $15.

Ruskin's "Salsette and Elephanta; a Prize Poem," Oxford, 1839, wrappers, $9.50.

Swinburne's "Dolores," London, 1867, $20. Bought by S. B. Luyster.

Manuscript on eighteen pages of vellum, the patent of nobility granted by Carlos III. of Spain to Don Josef Hernandez Pinzon, May 27, 1777, $23. The Pinzon family aided Columbus when he was preparing for his first voyage.

Hazard's "State Papers," Philadelphia, 1792, two volumes, $30.

New York Directories, a long series, comprising the reprint of 1786, the originals of 1792, 1793, 1796, 1798, 1803–68, in all seventy-two volumes, the issues for 1792, 1793, and 1796 being slightly imperfect, $37.80.

New York Historical Society Collections, Publication Fund Series, 1868–90, twenty-four volumes, $19.20.

Ramsey's "History of the American Revolution," Philadelphia, 1789, two volumes, $14.50.

* * *

During one day's sale of 300 books disposed of by Messrs. Sotheby, of London, these fetched some $13,100. The highest-priced books were: R. Kipling, "Echoes by Two Writers," 1884, £21 10s.; Shepharde's "Calender," printed by R. Pynson, no date, £67; "Die Deutsshe Bibel," Nuremberg, 1483, £31; Tyndale's "Newe Testament," 1548, £47; "Sayenges of the Philosophers," W. de Worde, 1323, £36; "Heures de Nostre Dame," Paris, 1488–1508 (a very fine copy of this excessively rare Book of Hours, apparently the second issued by Verard), £188; "Statutes," printed by Machlinia, 1481, £107; "Croyncles of Englonde," W. de Worde, 1528, £35 10s.; Caxton, "Caton," 1483, £360 (this is a very nearly perfect copy, of which only eight are known to exist; and the Ashburnham example, also incomplete, brought £295); Boccaccio, 1497, £39 10s.; W. Shakespeare, third folio, 1664, £260; Martin le Franc, "Le Livre du Champion des Dames," a finely written manuscript of the fifteenth century, £90; Boccaccio, "Livre de Jehan Bocace," manuscript, 1462, £150; W. M. Thackeray, ten original drawings for "Vanity Fair," £28; W. M. Thackeray, "Sketches at Clevedon Court," 1860, £16; I. Walton, "The Compleat Angler," 1653, first edition, but slightly defective, £161; Chaucer, Kelmscott Press, 1896, £50 10s.; W. Morris, "Earthly Paradise," Kelmscott Press, 1896, £19.

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